



Close Out Memorandum

**Arlington, Wisconsin
HWY20IH009**

(2 pages)



NTSB

National Transportation Safety Board

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DATE: April 23, 2021
TO: Robert Molloy, Director, Office of Highway Safety
THRU: Mark Bagnard, Chief of Investigations, Office of Highway Safety
FROM: Sheryl Harley, Investigator, Office of Highway Safety
SUBJECT: Close Out Memorandum: Collision between commercial motor vehicle and stopped emergency vehicles and pedestrians on the interstate, Arlington, Wisconsin-HWY20IH009

Synopsis

On Wednesday, June 12, 2020 at about 4:51 a.m. (central daylight time); a straight truck, operated by Shepard Logistics Solution LLC, was traveling northbound on Interstate 39 (I-39) near Arlington Township, Columbia County, Wisconsin. The straight truck approached a parked Wisconsin State Patrol (WSP) squad car that was parked blocking the right travel lane on I-39, at mile marker 119.5. WSP had responded to that location due to an earlier crash that occurred between two combination vehicles that left the right travel lane blocked by debris. The WSP squad car had its emergency warning lights activated and highway flares had been set out in a tapered pattern to redirect traffic from the right travel lane to the center lane. The straight truck failed to stop and rear-ended the parked squad car. As a result of the collision, the WSP squad car rotated clockwise as it was pushed into the Columbia County Highway and Transportation dump truck, parked on the right shoulder of the roadway. The operator of the dump truck was outside of the vehicle at the time of the collision. As a result of the impact damage to the rear of the squad car, debris from the trunk flew from the vehicle and struck two WSP patrol officers standing on the right shoulder of the roadway. The highway worker, standing next to WSP officers, was also struck by debris before he and one of the officers was thrown into a ditch. The straight truck crossed all the travel lanes before colliding with the concrete median wall adjacent to the left shoulder and coming to final rest. A second WSP cruiser was struck by the debris from the first squad car. As a result of the crash, the two state patrol officers and the highway worker sustained serious injury. The driver of the striking straight truck sustained minor injury in the crash.

Status

This investigation was initiated to support the NTSB's interest in the safety issues related to the exposure risks of emergency responders and highway workers operating on active roadways. This safety issue was identified in the North Charleston, SC investigation (HWY20FH007) and the Fallbrook, CA investigation (HWY21IH004). No further action beyond this memorandum will be taken; however, information from the items in this docket may be used in future Safety Board reports and/or activities.

Approved: _____

Robert Molloy

Date

5-7-21